FRAGMENTS OF THE COMMENTARY OF EPHREM SYRUS UPON THE DIATESSARON

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Fragments of the Commentary of Ephrem Syrus Upon the Diatessaron by J. Rendel Harris

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J. RENDEL HARRIS

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BY

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PREFACE.

IN a recent article in the Contemporary Review (August, 1895) I have shown that there is a close and constant dependence of the later Syriac commentators upon the Commentary which Ephrem Syrus made upon Tatian's Diatessaron; and I have found upon a further examination of these writers that it is possible to restore, sometimes exactly and sometimes approximately, large portions of the lost Syriac text of Ephrem, of which, up to the present, no fragment has been produced, and of which no representative is extant except the Armenian translation published by the Venetian fathers. As the recovery of these portions of the lost text not only elucidates the often doubtful meaning of the Armenian version, but also throws much light upon the history and fortunes of the composition, I have thought it worth while to commit the matter to the press in the hope that it will not be valueless to the critic even if a complete copy of the lost Syriac work should ultimately be recovered.

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